

From: Matt Bates [mailto:mattb@bmwconcord.com]
Sent: Friday, May 02, 2008 3:22 PM
To: MLPACComments
Subject: MLPA's

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I am writing to you today about the task you have at hand of protecting our coast. I am a 30 year old and was born and raised in California. I use the coastline for my weekends and yearly vacations. My family and I camp in Salt point, we spend time in Gualalla and spend time in Albion. My son is 2 years old I couldn't think of any other way of raising him other than the way I was raised using our coastline for fishing and diving. It saddens me to see the salmon populations declining, the rock cod season being shortened. Although fishing has a small impact on these fish, There are other factors that are causing the massive decline in our ocean resources, such as water diversion, pollution and poaching, None of these items are addressed in the MLPA's. I believe if your team had a chance to meet or talk to the majority of fishing community you would find that they are true conservationists, We love the ocean and everything in it, I feel a good comparison is a Garden, The ocean is like a large garden and everybody is it's gardener. Everybody enjoys the beautiful flowers and life that surrounds the garden and some make a living off the garden and some enjoy getting there own fruit from this garden. By shutting the coast down we are affectively cutting out a large portion of gardeners that help care for our resources. I don't feel putting a glass case around the ocean is going solve the real problems that are affecting it. I have reviewed all the proposals that are offered and although I feel that the focus should be on cleaning up our oceans and stopping widespread pollution and water diversion, the only proposal that does not cause a huge hardship on those who make a living from the ocean and allow the best accesses for everybody to enjoy is 2-XA.

Thank you,
Matthew Bates